



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015, 7:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Chairman - Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman - Chris Todd (arrived 7:39pm), David Hurley (arrived 7:18pm), Stanislav Moline (7:10 arrived pm), Alternate-Donna Resuthek and Alternate-Francie Berger

**ABSENT:** Gilbert Gamboa, Alternate-Stefanie Cunningham

### STAFF

**PRESENT:** Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

### III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

#### 1. Discussion Regarding Future Business Event

Chairman Kelly thought the Commission should regroup and try and pinpoint the Ellington economy before holding another event, pointing out the future event needs to bring value to the town.

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, directed attention to the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. (CERC) statistics sheet for the Town of Ellington. The Commission specifically discussed the Economics section of the town profile.

Chairman Kelly suggested Ms. Houlihan speak with CERC for a clearer understanding of the Ellington Data.

Ms. Houlihan reminded the Commission about the free workshop hosted by CERC: Fundamentals of Municipal Economic Development, A Transformational Approach. They are booked through the end of the year, but they have reserved January 13, 2016 to conduct a workshop in Ellington. She sent inquiries to Somers, Tolland and East Windsor to gauge interest in a joint workshop, stating Tolland is interested. She noted that CERC limits town participation to two towns at one meeting because a portion of the program covers specific town data analysis.

Chairman Kelly listed goals to achieve before the next meeting:

- a. Obtain a better understanding of the Ellington business climate.
- b. Define an audience for the business event.
- c. Defining an event around the needs of the local businesses.
- d. Promote GoLocal to consumers and businesses.

## **NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

### **2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber)**

Ms. Houlihan updated the Commission on key initiatives discussed at the last 2 meetings of the Chamber. She reminded the Commission that on 9/10/2015, from 8:00-9:30am is the Legislative Wrap Up meeting in Tolland.

Ms. Houlihan spoke about the upcoming Annual Chamber Meeting on October 7, 2015, at A Villa Louisa, Bolton. When she receives a formal announcement about the event she will notify the Commission. The event will include the Chamber's Annual Awards Program where awards will be given for economic development, corporate citizen, beautification, and best new business. She submitted a nomination for Cold Creek Brewery, LLC, for best new business, and The Barn Yard has been nominated for beautification and economic development.

## **NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

### **3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives**

Ms. Houlihan stated Bahler Farms' closing documents are awaiting approval by the Attorney General's office noting it was expected to close in July but there is commitment to close by end of 2015. Pitney Farms is the first farm in Ellington under the Community Farmland Program stating the appraisals are in and have been evaluated by Department of Agriculture. The town is awaiting copies of the appraisals and once received and reviewed she expects to site with the Department of Agriculture and the owner to discuss an official offer. Ms. Houlihan also acknowledged the recent interest in the Farmland Preservation Program from the Luginbuhl's and the Hoffman's on Jobs Hill Road. She provided the owners with a Farmland Preservation Program application and the Department of Agriculture's contact, noting the Department of Agriculture has been made aware of their interest.

## **NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

### **4. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits**

The monthly activity report was reviewed noting usage was up in August. Ms. Houlihan noted that advertising for GoLocal was placed in the Ellington Connection, as requested. The Commission discussed businesses who had and had not signed up yet. Ms. Houlihan will inform newer businesses and businesses that received tax abatements about the GoLocal initiative.

Chairman Kelly has not been in touch with the High School yet regarding help advertising for Shop Ellington allowing time for school to begin. He will be in touch before next meeting.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

5. Report: Tax Incentive Programs

Nothing to report.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Cold Creek Brewery, LLC opened on August 26, 2015, the Barn Yard is coming together and hoping to open at the end of the month. She noted how visiting Cold Creek as a Commission went well and suggested visiting Barn Yard's new site in the same capacity. The Commission decided to schedule a visit to Barn Yard and asked Ms. Houlihan to reach out for the November/December meetings. Ms. Houlihan stopped by Joe's Fine Wines and stated the owner spoke highly about how helpful the town has been in assisting him with his business. She also noted that Ellington Liquors has new ownership.

Skip's Septic has sold his business to Waste Water Services, LLC, located on Courtney Drive, and they have expanded together forming Skip's Wastewater Services. Ms. Houlihan informed the Commission the Ellington Fire Department is interested in the Building located at 6 Nutmeg Drive owned by Skip's and the process to purchase it is in progress. Skip's Septic was granted a Tax Abatement in 2009. While the town is in the process of looking into the purchase of 6 Nutmeg Drive, the purchase price should reflect a reduction that is the equivalent of penalty that Skip's is liable for being in default of the abatement agreement.

Discussion ensued.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

2. Approval of the July 8, 2015 and August 12, 2015, meeting minutes.

**MOVED (RESUTEK), SECONDED (MOLINE) AND PASSED (COMMISSIONER BERGER ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE THE JULY 8, 2015, AS WRITTEN.**

**MOVED (RESUTEK), SECONDED (MOLINE) AND PASSED (COMMISSIONER BERGER ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE AUGUST 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:  
PAGE1, PARAGRAPH 1, CHANGE THE WORD BOTTLING TO CANNING.**

3. Correspondence:

- a. Invitation to the Legislative Wrap Up Meeting, hosted by the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, Thursday, September 10, 2015.
- b. Letter from Tolland County Chamber of Commerce to Lisa Houlihan, dated September 1, 2015, (Upcoming events and 2015-2016 membership).

SO NOTED

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (TODD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kristin Michaud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K" and "M".

Kristin Michaud  
Recording Secretary